
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MOLYBDENUM IN DECEMBER 1996

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate increased 13% in December 1996 compared with that of the previous month and was 8% more than in December 1995, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,930 metric tons at the beginning of 1996 and 7,650 metric tons at the end of December.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in December 1996. Also included are trade data for November 1996. During December, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly

average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.535 per kilogram (\$4.325 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$11.464 per kilogram (\$5.200 per pound).

For the week ending February 21, 1997, Platt's Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$10.361 per kilogram (\$4.700 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.904 per kilogram (\$5.400 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1995 p/	1996		
		November	December	Year to date 2/
Production	58,000	4,420 r/	5,000	55,900
Shipments: 3/				
Domestic	13,700	1,280	1,340	16,000
Export	18,600	1,120 r/	1,230	19,600

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ As reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS
IN DECEMBER 1996 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
Steel:						
Carbon	411	W	--	--	W	411
Stainless and heat-resisting	1,940	93	--	--	W	2,030
Full alloy	2,010	1,120	--	--	W	3,120
High-strength low-alloy	400	266	--	--	--	666
Tool	859	41	--	--	W	900
Cast irons	17	458	--	--	W	475
Superalloys	1,020	156	--	219	389	1,780
Alloys:						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys 3/	--	W	--	5	W	5
Mill products made from metal power	--	--	--	--	W	W
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	10	--	--	10
Catalysts	773	--	W	--	W	773
Other	10	--	--	--	W	10
Miscellaneous and unspecified	--	392	758	--	1,640	2,790
Total	7,440	2,520	768	224	2,030	13,000
Stocks, December 31, 1996	4,870	1,620	87	503	8,170	15,300

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1995 p/	1996		
		November	December	Year to date 2/
Gross production	46,000	3,240	3,910	45,800
Molybdenum product 3/ used to make other products	23,100	2,340	1,950	23,700
Shipments	24,000	1,280	2,150	24,300

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		October	November	Year to date
Australia	650	76	79	609
Belgium	103,000	7,290	6,160	118,000
Brazil	1,580	8	--	204
Canada	7,590	113	330	2,580
Chile	62,900	10,000	5,250	61,100
China	--	2,450	1,410	10,700
France	--	--	--	56
Germany	7,700	473	--	5,050
India	--	199	--	586
Italy	1,370	1,760	505	3,730
Japan	54,900	3,560	5,500	47,500
Korea, Republic of	2	--	102	102
Mexico	40,400	5,850	4,100	53,100
Netherlands	112,000	6,060	5,960	58,900
Singapore	1	--	--	--
Spain	121	--	199	199
Sweden	6,300	1,020	830	4,530
Switzerland	324	--	--	--
Taiwan	6	--	--	--
United Kingdom	47,400	2,220	2,920	58,700
Venezuela	5	--	--	--
Total	446,000	41,100	33,400	426,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		October	November	Year to date 2/
Australia	8	--	--	--
Canada	2,140	247	161	2,110
China	2	--	--	--
Egypt	9	--	--	--
Japan	1,050	13	--	1,150
Korea, Republic of	21	--	--	19
Malaysia	223	--	--	372
Mexico	2,010	51	50	1,050
Netherlands	737	--	--	--
Singapore	--	85	32	539
Spain	234	--	--	12
Taiwan	485	--	--	--
Venezuela	27	--	--	8
Total	6,920	396	243	5,270

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1995			1996		
	January-December			January-November		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	74,300	47,800	\$73,400	74,900	50,800	\$38,000
Ore and concentrates other	15,000	7,930	8,040	351	210	169
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	9,180	NA	11,400	10,000	NA	7,490
Molybdates of ammonium	3,450	1,860	2,880	5,920	3,150	4,860
Molybdates (all others)	540	420	285	825	364	506
Molybdenum orange	6,740	NA	2,270	17,100	NA	5,300
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	6	5	130	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	65,500	41,900	74,600	74,900	47,200	52,600
Molybdenum powders	1,950	1,460	5,590	1,130	995	3,060
Molybdenum unwrought	1,310	1,020	3,560	837	770	2,190
Molybdenum waste and scrap	4,530	4,300	6,310	6,840	6,320	9,570
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	11	NA	277	19	NA	300
Molybdenum other	27	NA	993	35	NA	964
Total	183,000	107,000	190,000	193,000	110,000	125,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.